(b) and (c) As per the water balance studies carried out by National Water Development Agency (NWDA) for Pamba & achenkovil rivers considering their 75% dependable annual surface water yields and requirements for domestic use, industrial use, irrigation, hydropower and salinity control upto the year 2025 AD, these river basins would be water surplus to the extent of 1612 Million Cubic Metre (M. Cum) and 1515 M. Cum respectively. Against this, only 20% of the combined surpluses *i.e.* 634 M. Cum is envisaged for diversion to Vaippur basin for utilisation in the deficit area.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. There is a basic difference between the approaches adopted by CWRDM and NWDA in estimating the water availability and projected water requirement for different uses. These issues have been further discussed in the meetings of Technical Advisory Committee. Governing Body and Society of NWDA held from time to time.

After detailed deliberations in 19th Annual General Meeting of the NWDA Society held on 26.3.2003 which was also attended by Shri T.M. Jacob, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, Government of Kerala, President of the Society decided that NWDA and Government of Kerala jointly carry out a study for Pamba-Achenkovil and Vembanand wet land system.

Allocation of funds for flood havoc in Assam

1021. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of serious flood havoc in eight districts of Assam during the last fortnight;

(b) what help has been offered to Assam Government to cope with the situation;

(c) whether it is a fact that the nodal Ministry of Water Resources has not released any fund to Assam Government since 2000 for flood management in the State;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) in what manner Government intend to help the State in flood management during the current year 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the latest preliminary reports received from the State Government, 22 districts of Assam have been affected by the current floods.

(b) As per scheme for financing the relief expenditure, State Govts. are required to meet the expenditure on relief operation out of allocated corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) which is contributed by Government of India and the State Govts. in the ratio of 3:1 When the calamity is of a severe nature and the CRF is not sufficient, the Central Government gives assistance to the States out of the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), after following the established procedure. The Corpus of CRF for the State of Assam for the years 2002-03 was Rs. 83.92 crore and for the year 2003-04 is Rs. 88.12 crore as Central share. The entire Central share for the year 2002-03 was released to State. The first instalment of Central share of CRF for the year 2003-04 amounting to Rs. 44.06 crore has also been released. The 2nd instalment is due on 1st November, 2003.

As per utilization report received from State Govt. of Assam Rs. 99.86 crore was available as balance as on March, 2003. Taking into account, the first instalment of CRF for the current year (Rs. 58.75 crore-both Central and State share) an amount of Rs. 158.61 crore is available in the corpus of CRF with the State Govt.

In this connection, a request has also been received from the State Govt for sending the Central Team which has since been constituted by the Government of India. The State Govt. has been requested to submit a Memorandum giving sector-wise damage details for Central Assiatance. The team will visit the affected areas as per the convenience of the State Govt.

(c) and (d) The Central Assistance (funds) for taking up the flood management schemes is being released not only by the Ministry of Water Resources, but also by the Department of Development of North Eastern Region and Planning Commission. Since 1999-2000 to 2002-03, Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 111.57 crore to State Govt. of Assam for taking up schemes related to flood management works. In addition to above, funds amounting to Rs. 64.5 crore were released to Brahmaputra Board for execution of schemes/project in Assam related to flood management.

(e) The Government of India has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for taking up critical flood control and anti erosion schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley for implementation during the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07) which includes Rs. 150 crore as Central assistance for Assam and North Eastern States including Sikkim and North Bengal. The scheme has been approved "in principle" by Planning Commission and the appraisal note has also been issued for discussion by the Expenditure Finance Committee and the scheme will thereafter be posed for approval of Full Planning Commission/Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

Further an additional amount of Rs. 42.00 crore has been earmarked for Brahmaputra Board for execution of critical flood management schemes in Assam and other North Eastern States during 10th Five Year Plan.

Germany's help for river linking project

1022. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought German expertise in the project for linking major rivers in India;

(b) if so, the details of help Germany has rendered or propose to render to Government to link major rivers;

(c) whether the target of linking major rivers would be completed as per schedule; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The initiation and completion of actual work of linking of rivers depends on various important issues such as completion of Detailed Project Report, Cooperation from all the concerned States as well as neighbouring countries particularly Nepal and Bhutan and availability of funds.